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INFORMATION FROM
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REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Economic: Imports and exports
HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers
WHERE
PUBLISHED Prague; Oslo
DATE
PUBLISHED Feb Apr 1949
LANGUAGE Czech; Nor

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1949

DATE DIST. 3 May 1949

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Czechoslovak and Norwegian daily newspapers as indicated.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE REORGANIZED;
FEBRUARY BALANCE OF TRADE FAVORABLE

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY REORGANIZED -- Lidova Demokracie, No 72, 26 Mar 49

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Trade has been reorganized. It now consists of several groups; at the head of each is a permanent deputy minister. Evzen Loebl heads the first group, whose duty is to study and plan foreign trade, and to check on its progress. The other two groups are headed by Dr. Rudolf Margolius and Representative Richard Dvorak as deputy ministers; these groups formulate trade policy. Dr Jaroslav Hruza heads an independent permanent department in the capacity of permanent secretary.

The Minister's Cabinet was abolished in this reorganization.

CZECHOSLOVAK-ALBANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT -- Lidova Demokracie, No 61, 13 Mar 49

The commercial and political discussions with the Albanian delegation in Prague ended on 12 March 1949 with the signing of an agreement concerning the exchange of goods and payment for 1949. According to this agreement, Czechoslovakia will deliver machines, appliances, textile products, and other consumer goods to Albania; Albania will deliver raw materials which are important for our economy.

NORWEGIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE AGREEMENT -- Aftenposten Norwegian, No 155, 2 April 49

The Foreign Office reports that a trade agreement was signed in Prague between Norway and Czechoslovakia on 30 March. The agreement will be in effect until 28 February 1950.

Among the items Norway will export are fish, herring, codliver oil, whale fats, ferroalloys, furs, etc. Czechoslovak export goods will include sugar, textiles, machines, iron and steel, various chemicals, etc.

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The trade agreement involves a total value of approximately 140 million Norwegian kroner.

BALANCE OF TRADE FOR FEBRUARY -- Lidove Noviny, No 61, 13 Mar 49

According to preliminary data, imports for February totaled 2,937,083,000 crowns, whereas exports were valued at 3,048,028,000 crowns. This means that the balance of trade was favorable by 110,945,000 crowns.

Raw materials and semifinished goods made up 48.6 percent of imports. A smaller proportion of total imports was taken up by food than in January of this year. This proportion was 28.6 percent in February as against 31.7 percent in January.

Exports in February were greater than in January by 563,000,000 crowns, so that the January unfavorable balance of 101,000,000 crowns was made up. The total trade balance for 1949 is now favorable by 9,550,000 crowns. This is in contrast with the balance for the first two months of 1948, which was unfavorable by 3,025,000,000 crowns.

CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN TRADE FOR JANUARY 1949 -- Svobodne Slovo, No 43, 20 Feb 49

Czechoslovak foreign trade for January 1949 showed an unfavorable balance of 101 million crowns; in January 1948 there was an unfavorable balance of 1,803,000,000 crowns.

Imports this January totaled 2,586,000,000 crowns, and exports 2,485,000,000 crowns.

This is not extraordinary, since food imports are usually greatest in the first months of the year. Food totaled 31.7 percent of imports, while finished products made up 80 percent of exports.

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